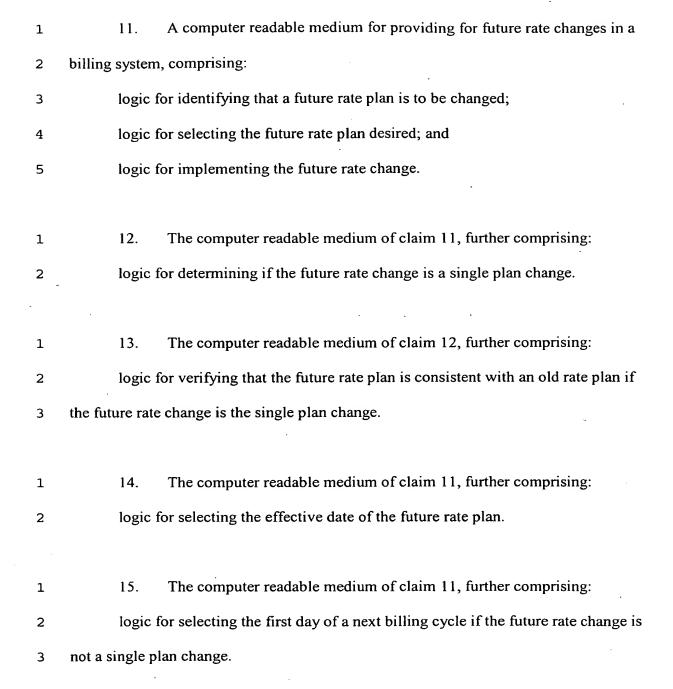## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A system for providing for future rate changes in a billing system,

2   comprising:

3   means for identifying that a future rate plan is to be changed;

4   means for selecting the future rate plan desired; and

5   means for implementing the future rate change.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2   means for determining if the future rate change is a single plan change.

1   3.   The system of claim 2, further comprising:

2   means for verifying that the future rate plan is consistent with an old rate plan if

3   the future rate change is the single plan change.

1   4.   The system of claim 3, further comprising:

2   means for selecting the effective date of the future rate plan.

1   5.   The system of claim 4, further comprising:

2   means for selecting the first day of a next billing cycle if the future rate change

3   is not a single plan change.

1   6.   A method for providing for future rate changes in a billing system, said

2   method comprising the steps of:

3   identifying that a future rate plan is to be changed;

4   selecting the future rate plan desired; and

5   implementing the future rate change.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

2   determining if the future rate change is a single plan change.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:

2   verifying that the future rate plan is consistent with an old rate plan if the future

3   rate change is the single plan change.

1   9.   The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

2   selecting the effective date of the future rate plan.

1   10.   The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

2   selecting the first day of a next billing cycle if the future rate change is not a

3   single plan change.

1   11.   A computer readable medium for providing for future rate changes in a

2   billing system, comprising:

3   logic for identifying that a future rate plan is to be changed;

4   logic for selecting the future rate plan desired; and

5   logic for implementing the future rate change.

1   12.   The computer readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:

2   logic for determining if the future rate change is a single plan change.

1   13.   The computer readable medium of claim 12, further comprising:

2   logic for verifying that the future rate plan is consistent with an old rate plan if

3   the future rate change is the single plan change.

1   14.   The computer readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:

2   logic for selecting the effective date of the future rate plan.

1   15.   The computer readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:

2   logic for selecting the first day of a next billing cycle if the future rate change is

3   not a single plan change.

1   16.   A system for providing for future rate changes in a billing system,

2   comprising:

3   an identifier that identifies that a future rate plan is to be changed;

4   a selector that enables a user to select the future rate plan desired; and

5   a processor that implements the future rate change.

1   17.   The system of claim 16, further comprising:

2   a determiner that determines if the future rate change is a single plan change.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2   a validator that validates that the future rate plan is consistent with an old rate

3   plan if the future rate change is the single plan change.

1   19.   The system of claim 16, wherein the selector is configured to enable a

2   user to select the effective date of the future rate plan.

1   20.   The system of claim 16, wherein the selector is configured to select the

2   first day of a next billing cycle if the future rate change is not a single plan change.